MASTER HUNTER CODE OF ETHICS

As a master hunter, I am a steward of the future of hunting. I pledge to act in accordance with the highest ethical standards. I will display proper respect for game, landowners, other hunters, the public, all fish and wildlife laws. I pledge to be a conscientious, committed hunter who cares about the future of hunting. I will assume a leadership role among my peers and will do so by exhibiting exemplary conduct in the field. As a Master Hunter, I shall play a key role in improving relationships with all landowners, thus ensuring continued hunter access to private and public lands. I pledge to continue to expand my knowledge of wildlife and natural resource management practices and understand the role I play in these practices.

I pledge to be a "Steward of the hunt."

Master Hunter General Information and Orientation

Sponsored by:

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Agenda

- □Introductions (Aaron Garcia)
- ■MHPP Overview
 - □History
 - Mission
 - ■Volunteer Opportunities
 - Coordinators
 - ■What Qualifies as a MH Project
 - CERVIS (What is it?, How does it work?)

Agenda Continued

- □MHPP Current Activities
 - Master Hunter Advisory Group; Purpose and Role (Carissa Craghead)
 - ■Strategic plan
 - Community Outreach
 - National Hunting and Fishing Day
 - □Corn Stubble Project
 - Youth Hunts
 - ■Hunter Education

Agenda Continued

- ■Wildlife Conflict/Damage Control Activities
 - Purpose
 - Challenges
 - □Guidelines
 - □Ethic
- ■Master Hunter General Season Hunts
 - □ Roles
 - ■Specific Hunts

Agenda Continued

- ■Master Hunter Special Permit Hunts
 - □ Roles
 - ■Specific Permits/Lists
- Laws, Rules, Violations, Etc.
- Questions and Answers

Dave Whipple
Hunter Education Division Manager
Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



- Master Hunter Permit Program
 (MHPP) replaced the Advance Hunter
 Education Program in 2008, due to
 issues w/ the former program
- Commission developed a formal policy for the new program
- ~1,700 master hunters (MHs) currently in the program

- Designed to:
 - Help WDFW resolve human/wildlife conflicts
 - Help WDFW meet priority goals
 - Promote responsible hunting
 - Strengthen the conservation ethic and the image/heritage of hunting

- Emphasizes safe, lawful, and ethical hunting while upholding the highest standards
- MHs play a key role in improving relationships with landowners to promote access to private lands

Commission Policy, Dec 2007

- MHs are a tool employed by WDFW to help resolve certain human/wildlife conflicts
- Fundamental to the policy is MH certification is a privilege and not a right.
- Many hunting situations will be highly visible to the public, may be on private property, and will require good judgment and professional conduct.

Commission Policy Continued

- Violations of any Department regulations will not be tolerated
 - Reflected in law (RCW 77.15.760)
 - Reflected in rule (WAC 232.12.073)
- MHs are role models for the rest of the hunting community and, through their actions, act as ambassadors for the Department.

Wildlife Program Policy

- Hunter Education Division (and MHPP) transferred from Enforcement to Wildlife Program July 1, 2013
- Wildlife Program Policy Statement builds on existing commission policy by emphasizing the volunteer component

Wildlife Program Policy Continued

- MHs are "Stewards of the Hunt" and give back to the wildlife resource
- Wildlife Program staff will work w/ the Master Hunter Advisory Group to:
 - I.D. meaningful MH volunteer opportunities that promote the conservation ethic and address priority needs of Wildlife Program and the agency
 - Coordinate and manage MH volunteer efforts

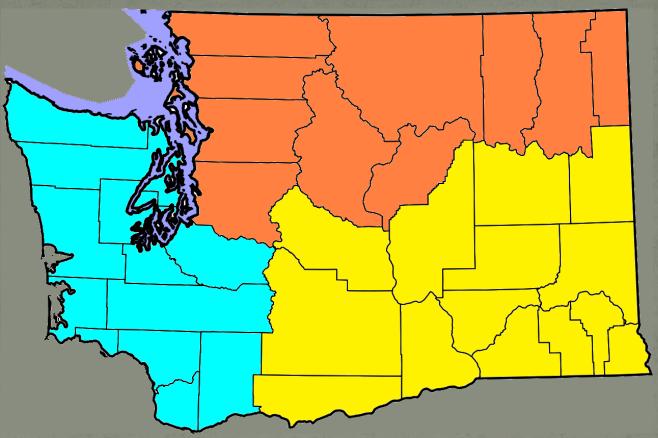
Wildlife Program Policy Continued

- Focus areas for volunteer projects:
 - Increase hunter access to private lands
 - Increase hunter recruitment and retention
 - Protect and enhance important habitat
 - Participation in citizen science/wildlife data collection
 - Serve as an administrative or coordination role for a volunteer network

MH Coordination Investments

- New Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinators
 - Expanded areas to cover the entire state
- They help coordinate agency projects with MHs
- Increases volunteer opportunities for MHs

Volunteer Coordinators



- Steve Dazey (425-775-1311 Ext 106)
- Aaron Garcia (509-575-2740 Ext 308)
- Bill Montgomery (360-902-8413)

CERVIS

- Online Volunteer Portal
 - Lists available projects
 - Tracks service hours
- Can be used instead of paper forms for MH service hours
- Use is encouraged and will become more common in the near future.
- HOW TO USE IT Handout

Registering with CERVIS

To register as a volunteer in CERVIS you will need to create a volunteer profile. You will be asked to provide some information about yourself, answer a few questions and review and accept the terms and conditions of our volunteer agreement. Here are step-by-step directions describing how to complete that process.

http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/

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ne Redmond rogram Manager mond@dfw.wa.gov -902-8303

Admin Login

Volunteer Opportunities

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife welcomes volunteers who want to assist in activities that benefit fish, wildlife and habitat.

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available, including projects on state wildlife areas, water access sites, furthering conservation activities and hunter education through the Master Hunter program, and local projects that benefit salmon recovery through Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups (RFEGS).

Beginning in 2012, WDFW implemented an on-line volunteer management system to make it easier for volunteers to learn about volunteer opportunities and to participate in them. Known as CERVIS (Community Event Registration & Volunteer Information System), this system tracks projects and volunteer hours

First, potential volunteers must register using a simple on-line form; then review the volunteer opportunities that are available.



WDFW Volunteer Program Event Listing & Registration

■ FOR VOLUNTEERS...

- · Orientation for New Volunteers
- · How to Register
- How to Log Service Hours

Receive a complimentary Discover Pass



Learn more >>



The next screen should look like this at the top:

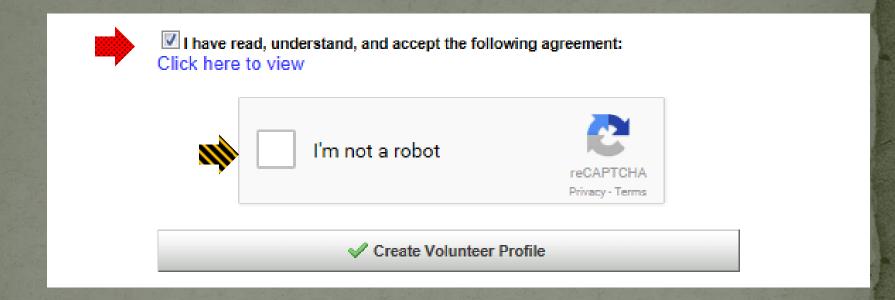
CERVIS Login	Service Events	Service Projects	Contact Us	
	Vashington Department of TISH AND VILDLIFE			
Create Volunte	eer Profile			
Community Event (CERVIS). Please co your volunteer appli your volunteer profile, CERVIS will autom	Registration & Vol mplete the informatic cation for review. Aft atically send your passwort the password box. CERV	ment of Fish and unteer Information on requested below to er you have completed and s ord to your email address. (IS will prompt you to cha	System submit submitted Copy and	
Volunteer Last Name:*				
Volunteer Last Name:* Volunteer First Name:*]	

To create a profile/register in CERVIS you are required to provide the following:

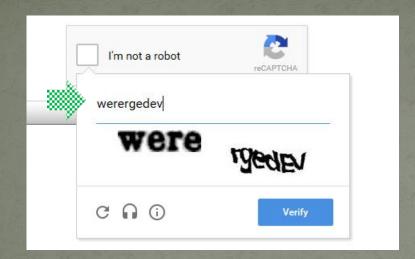
- First and last name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Emergency contact name and phone number

You will also be asked to indicate if you have ever received a fish and wildlife citation or felony conviction and if you are 14 and over or 18 and over.

Your screen should look like this when you get to the bottom:



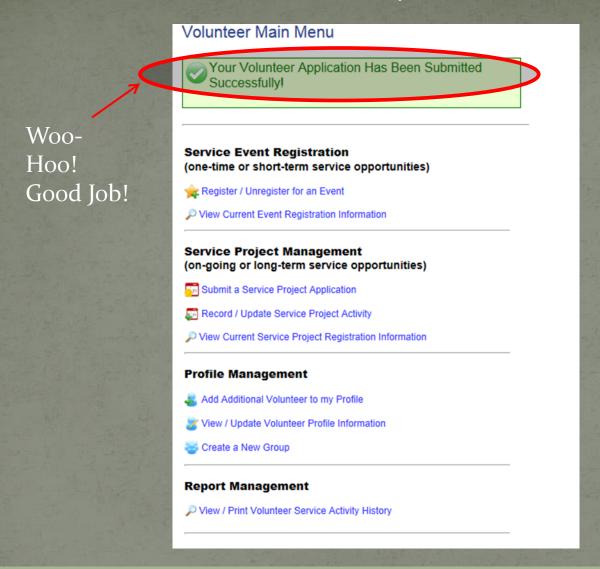
- You will be asked to click a box to indicate you have read, understand, and accept the terms of our volunteer agreement.
- Click the "I'm not a robot" box.





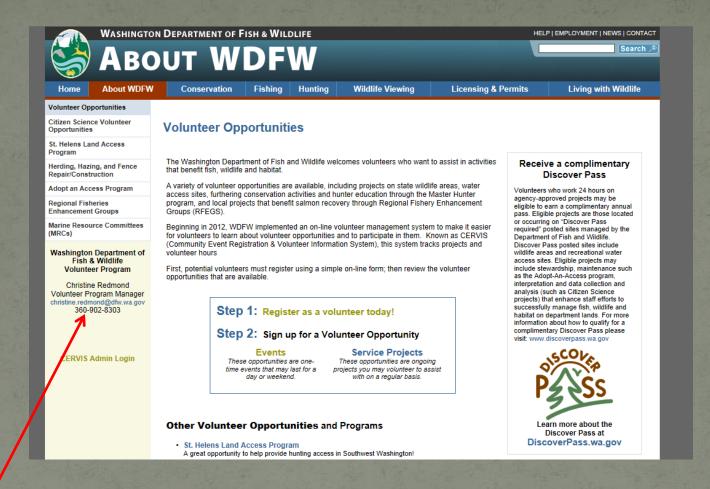
- Type the text that that pops up and then click "Verify".
- To complete the process click on the "Create Volunteer Profile" tab.

The next screen should look like this at the top:



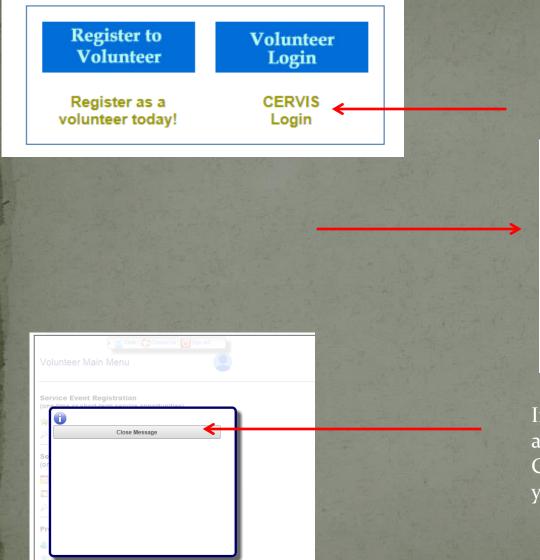
You will also receive an email that will give you a temporary password so you can access your profile any time.

http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/



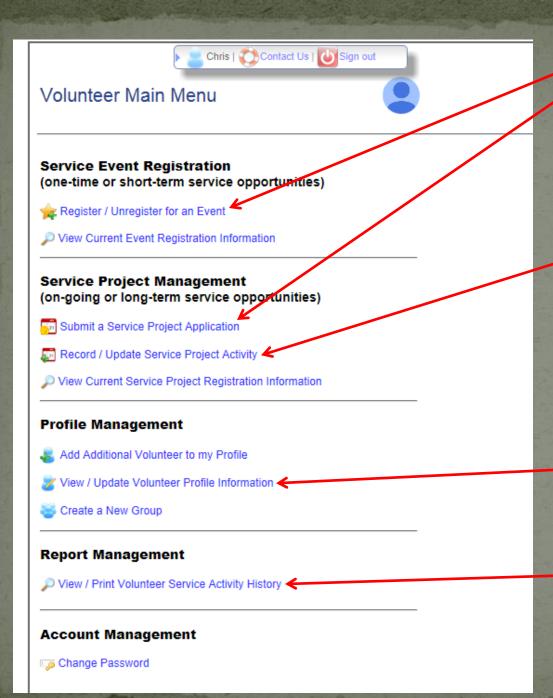
If you need assistance creating your profile in CERVIS please contact the department's volunteer program manager, Christine Redmond 360-902-8303.

To log-in to CERVIS from: http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/





If there are any messages for you they will appear on this screen when you log-in. Click on "Close Message" to proceed to your profile.



Events and service projects are two different categories. These links will show you what events and service projects are currently recruiting volunteers. With these links you can register for events and apply to participate in service projects.

You can use this link to log your hours for any service project that you are registered for and has been set up to allow this feature. Your volunteer supervisor can tell you what method to use for reporting your hours.

 You can use this link to make changes to your profile, such as updating your contact information or interests.

 You can use this link to see and print your service history in the CERVIS system. If you have hours that you have submitted in emails or paper forms they will not appear on this list.

rev. 7/2016

WDFW Contacts for MHs

Tracy Loveless

- Customer Service, Olympia
- (360) 902-8412, tracy.loveless@dfw.wa.gov

Kris Thorson

- MHPP Liaison, Olympia
- (360) 902-8410, kristopher.thorson@dfw.wa.gov

Aaron Garcia

- Region 3 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Yakima
- (509)575-2740 Ext 308, aaron.garcia@dfw.wa.gov

Steve Dazey

- Region 4 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Mill Creek
- (425) 775-1311 Ext 106, steven.dazey@dfw.wa.gov

Bill Montgomery

- Region 6 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Olympia
- (360) 902-8413, william.montgomery@dfw.wa.gov



Why We're Here

- Provide information on the Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG)
- Support the goals of the MHPP and MHAG
- Promote the communication linkage between MHs and their regional MHAG representatives
- Help reinforce the goals of MHPP

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Role

- Represents MHs statewide
- Consists of MHs from each Region
- Advises WDFW on issues and opportunities affecting MH and MHPP
- Help WDFW conduct MH meetings targeting communities and stakeholders to help resolve local issues and concerns

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Mission Statement

 Develop a corps of hunters dedicated to preserving the heritage of hunting by giving back to the sport, displaying the highest standards of conduct, and working to conserve wildlife habitat and hunting opportunity.

MHAG Strategic Plan

- Developed by WDFW and MHAG subgroup
- Adopted by MHAG
- Focus areas:
 - Youth Hunts
 - Education and training for new and existing hunters
 - Improving the image of MHs and the MHPP

MHAG Strategic Plan

- Near-term Priorities:
 - Use MH skills and contacts to develop opportunities for youth where there is a good chance of success
 - Utilize MHs at public events like clinics, sports shows, seminars, etc.
 - Increase visibility of MHPP benefits and accomplishments to the public

Youth Hunting Access

- MHPP using Corn Stubble Program to increase waterfowl hunting days for youth in Regions 2 and 3
- Master hunters in Regions 2 and 3 may be asked to participate with locating landowners
- Biologists will increase youth dates on properties MH's help secure

Wildlife Conflict and Damage Control Activities

Aaron Garcia
Hunter Education and Volunteer Coordinator
Region 3
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

WDFW is Responsible For Managing Wildlife Damage to Crops on Private Land



WDFW Conflict Goals

- Minimize damage caused by wildlife
- Move wildlife off private property
- Instill the "Ecology of Fear" in wildlife

Crop Damage



Fence Damage



Irrigation Pipe



Challenges

Landowner expectations

Wildlife behavior

Weather patterns

General public perceptions

Strategies to meet conflict goals

- MH general seasons August 1 January 20
- MH special permits July 1 March 31
- Second tag for 3911 to encourage early season hunting pressure and harvest
- Landowner permits
- Hazing

Landowner Permits

- Damage Prevention Permits
 - Issued to landowner
 - Landowner can harvest or select another licensed hunter
 - Landowner may charge access fees
- Kill Permit
 - Only for landowner and immediate family

- Game Division Staff
 - Present rules to set general seasons to the Commission
 - May post activity updates to the website to assist in control activities

- Landowners
 - May allow access to their property if approached in advance. Some welcome MHs. Volunteer projects may help you make contacts.
 - ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ALLOW ACCESS. Trespassing is a big problem in some MH general seasons.

- Master hunter
 - Scout and know the area prior to the season.
 - Make efforts to meet with landowners for access.
 - Take safe, effective shots that will result in a quick and humane harvest. The property next door may not let you recover a harvested animal.

- Master hunter continued
 - Plan your hunt activities with these goals in mind:
 - Move animals away from agricultural areas into wildlife area/winter grounds
 - Limit damage to fencing
 - Improve the image of MHs
 - Be aware that you are being watched by the public. Keep to your highest ethical standards.

Early MH General Season Challenges

- Hot weather
 - Personal safety hydrate and watch for heat injuries
 - Have a plan for after the shot need to immediately cool the meat
- Safety
 - Non-hunters, agricultural workers and general public in the field

Helpful Hints



- ID property owners through county assessor's web page
- Contact landowners well in advance of the season to secure access
- Push animals away from croplands
- Pursue volunteer opportunities through WDFW Coordinators

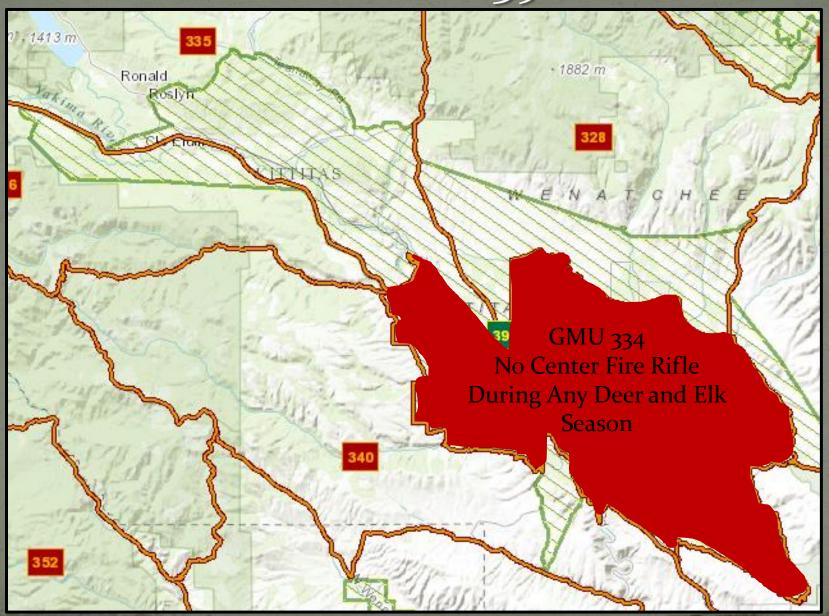
MH General Seasons

- 3911 Fairview
 - August 1st Oct 28th
 - 3911 Second Tag required
 - November 12th December 15th
 - Unused general season tag
- 3912 Old Naches
 - August 1, 2015 January 20, 2017
- 371 Alkali
 - August 1, 2015 January 20, 2017

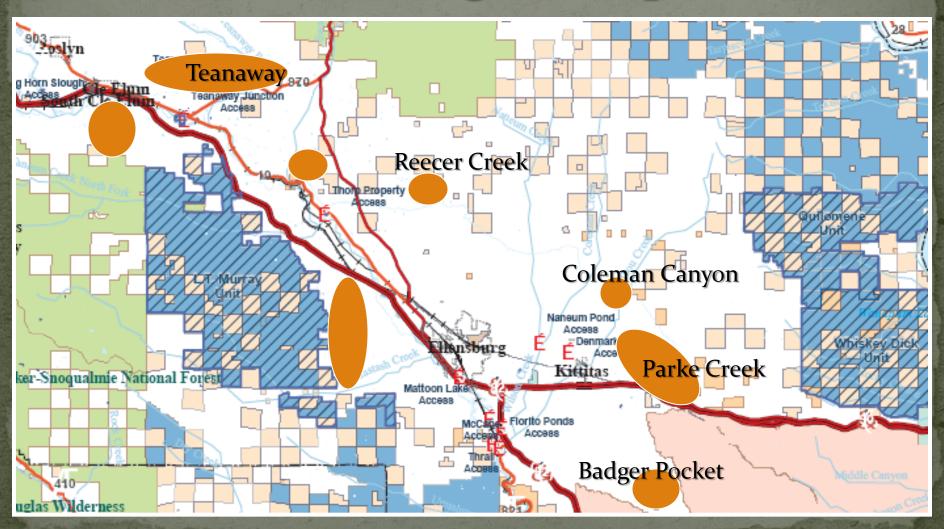
MH General Seasons

- 3722 Blackrock
 - September 7 September 22.
 - Elk Area 3722 is mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting this area without making prior arrangements for access.
- 127- Mica Peak
 - December 9th –December 31st
- 130 Cheney
 - December 9th –December 31st
- 6064 Quinault Valley
 - November 5th November 16th
 - A selected portion of GMU 638, subject to regular General Season Rules – 3pt min.

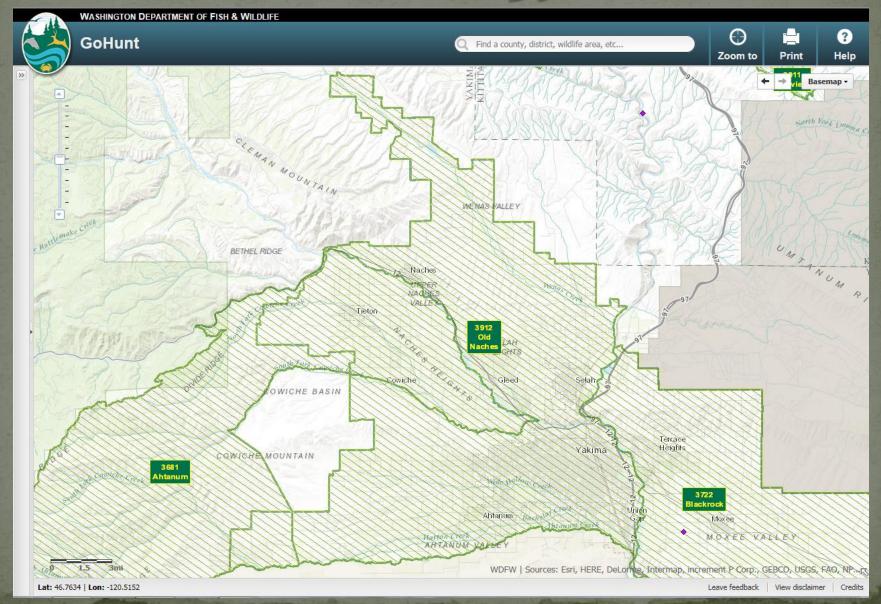
Elk Area 3911



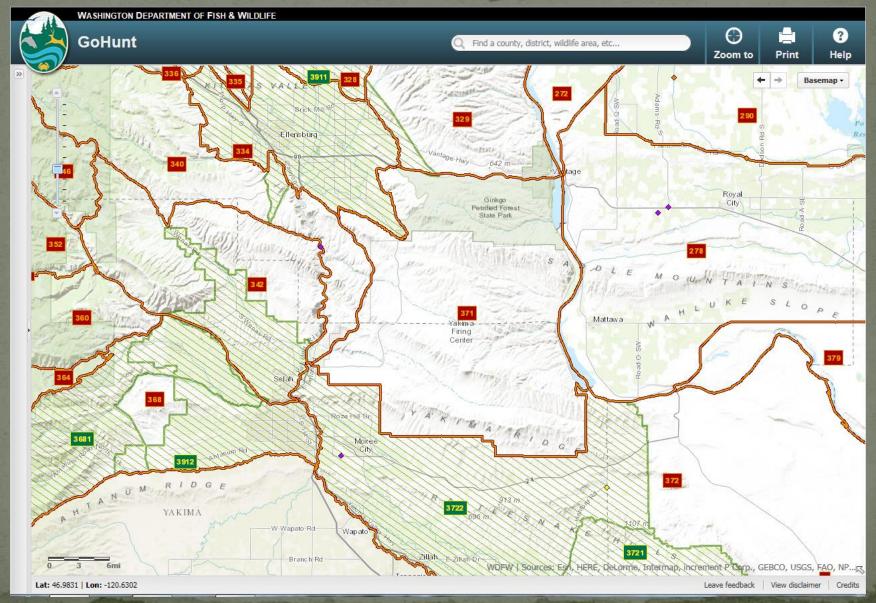
Kittitas County Elk Damage Hotspots



Elk Area 3912



GMU 371

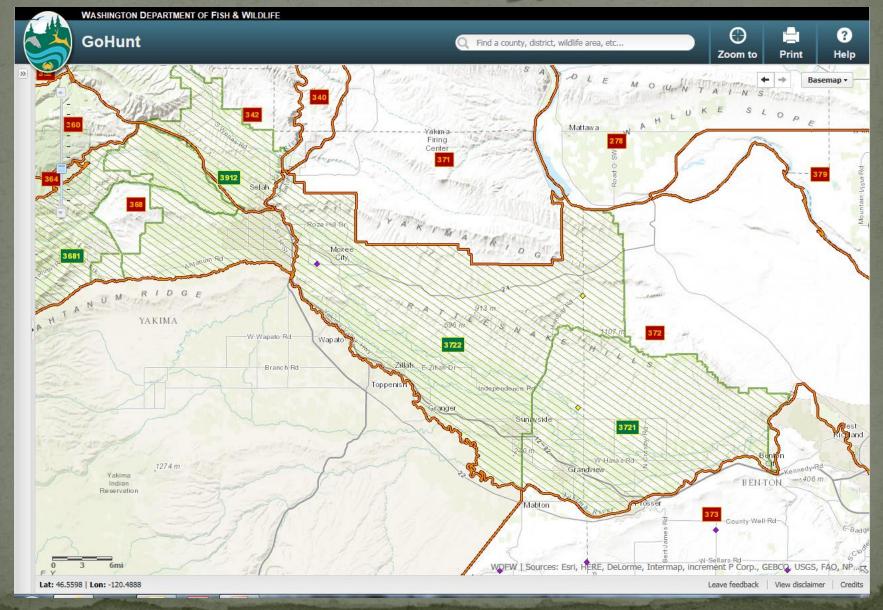


Yakima Training Center Restricted Access

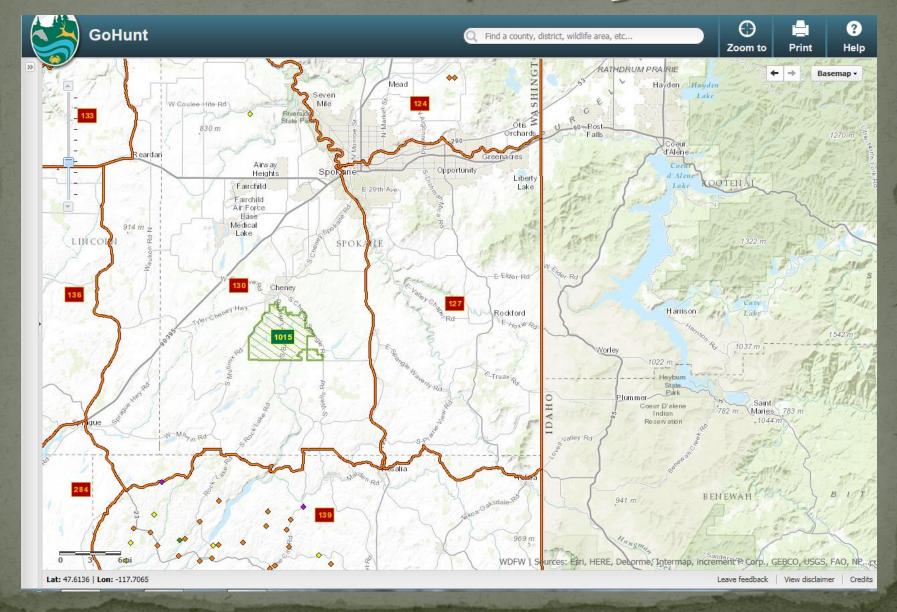
Outdoor Recreation Access Policy:

- The Yakima Training Center (YTC) is open to the public for hunting, bird watching, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, falconry, archery target range, use of the Juvenile Fishing Pond, etc.
- Individuals visiting YTC for recreational purposes are required to comply with YTC Policy Statement #28, Outdoor Recreation.
- Recreational cards are issued to recreational visitors upon completion of a briefing.
- All recreational visitors to training areas are required to sign in/out with Range Operations prior to entering/departing training areas.

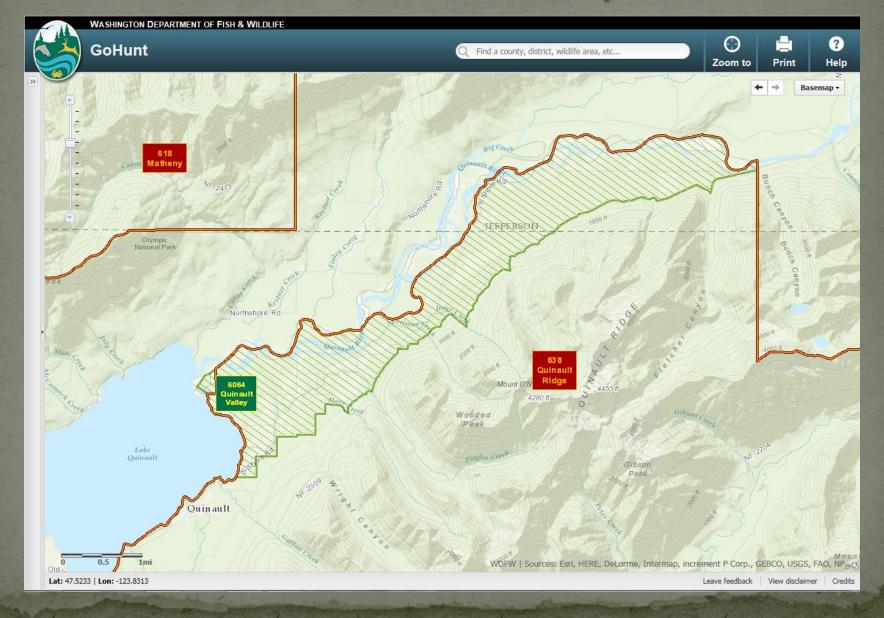
Elk Area 3722



GMUs 127 and 130



Elk Area 6064



REMEMBER

- •Landowners are <u>not</u> required to allow access for MHs
- Respect their wishes and

requests.



- Conflict Specialist
 - Monitor damage caused by wildlife and develop a plan to address
 - Work with landowners
 - Deploys MHs to remove wildlife causing damage
 - Direct activities of volunteer hunt coordinator (if used)

- Landowner
 - Allows MH to participate in removal of an animal on their property
 - Works with the Conflict Specialist to specify areas, notes safety concerns
 - Controls access if they don't want someone on the property, they can choose to not allow that person on their property.

- Volunteer Hunt Coordinator
 - Follows the direction from the Conflict Specialist
 - Calls the MH on the list as directed by Conflict Specialist
 - Arranges the hunt per the directions of the Conflict Specialist

- Master hunter
 - Must follow the directions of the conflict specialist, hunt coordinator, and Landowner.
 - Any failure to follow directions may result in removal from the property.

- Master hunter continued
 - Must be EXTREMELY proficient in the hunting equipment required for the hunt
 - Must be prepared to take care of the animal harvested, from field to freezer.
 Do not expect the hunt coordinator or any WDFW staff to provide assistance.

Only listing hunt coordinator permits.

- 1800 Republic 25 deer permits
 - September 1 December 31
- 1801 Region 1 50 deer permits
 - August 1 March 31, 2017
- 1802 Region 2 30 deer permits
 - August 1 March 31, 2017
- 1803 Region 3 40 deer permits
 - August 1st March 31, 2017

- 1804 Region 5 10 deer permits
 - August 1 March 31, 2017
- 1805 Region 6 20 deer permits
 - July 1 March 31, 2017
- 2701 Region 1 20 elk permits
 - August 1 March 31, 2017
- 2702 Region 2 50 elk permits
 - August 1 March 31, 2017
- 2703 Fairview 40 elk permits
 - November 7 March 31, 2017

- 2704 Region 3 25 elk permits
 - August 1 March 31, 2017
- 2705 Rattlesnake Hills 20 elk permits
 - August 1 February 28, 2017
- 2706 North Bend 15 elk permits
 - July 1 March 31, 2017
- 2707 Region 4 North 10 elk permits
 - July 1 March 31, 2017
- 2708 Region 4 South 10 elk permits
 - July 1 March 31, 2017

- 2715 JBH 5 elk permits
 - November 1st December 31st
- 2716 Region 5 40 elk permits
 - August 1st March 31, 2017
- 2719 Region 6 60 elk permits
 - July 1st March 31, 2017

Ethical (and Legal) Issues

- MHs are a very visible representation of the hunting community
- Landowners have experienced issues with master hunters, such as expecting access to private land, trespassing to hunt or retrieve down game, littering, gates not left as found, etc.
- The public watches and judges all master hunters by the actions they see, which is why you must follow all the highest ethical standards.

"Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching - even when doing the wrong thing is legal."

— Aldo Leopold "The Father of Wildlife Management"





Violations

- The Department must:
 - Suspend a master hunter who pays the fine or is found guilty of an infraction of RCW 77.15 for two years
 - Suspend a master hunter who is found guilty of a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony of RCW 77.15 for life

Violations

- Identified on license that they are a Master Hunter
 - Right under their birthdate MH Expires:
- If cited or charged, MHPP has to take action
- Ensure you are legally and ethically hunting and fishing.
 - If it is legal but might be seen as unethical, stay clear.

Violation Examples

- Fishing violations
 - Barbed hooks
 - Undersize fish
 - Over limit
 - Etc.

Violation Examples

- Hunting violations
 - Wrong sex
 - Antler restrictions
 - Wastage
 - Etc.

Violation Examples

- Disobeying any other Department Rule
 - Not obeying signs
 - Parking infractions
 - Etc.

During 2015 the MHPP had the following lifetime suspensions:

- Life Restriction 1 A MH was cited and paid the fine for a violation of RCW 77.15.460 Unlawful use or possession of a loaded firearm, which is a misdemeanor.
- Life Restriction 2 A MH was cited and paid the fine for a violation of RCW77.15.380 Recreational fishing violation in the 2nd degree, which is a misdemeanor.

- Life Restriction 3 A MH was cited and paid the fine for a violation of RCW77.15.410 (1) – Unlawful hunting of big game, 2nd degree, which is a gross misdemeanor.
- Life Restriction 4 A MH was cited and paid the fine for a violation of RCW77.15.410 (1) Unlawful hunting of big game, 2nd degree, which is a gross misdemeanor.

During 2015 the MHPP had the following two year suspensions:

- Two Year Suspension 1 A MH was cited and found guilty for a violation of RCW77.15.160 (1) (b)
 Recreational fishing rule violation Failure to Immediately record catch.
- Two Year Suspension 2 A MH was cited and found guilty for a violation of RCW77.15.160 (1) (d) (ii) Recreational fishing rule violation not in possession of a Fish.

- Two Year Suspension 3 A MH was cited and paid the fine for a violation of RCW77.15.160 (5) (b) –
 Other infractions
- Suspension Until Adjudicated A MH was cited for a violation of RCW77.15.410 (1) (b) Unlawful Hunting of Big Game 2nd degree.

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending. If you would like to receive emails about volunteer opportunities please make sure you have signed in and put a correct email address on the sign in sheet.